



BISMARCK  
AS A  
STUDENT  
BY ALLERS.



# Bismarck's Own Story of His Life

The Long Expected Autobiography of  
the Iron Chancellor, the Most Con-  
spicuous Figure in the History  
of This Century.

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THE Sunday Journal presents to the American public to-day the memoirs of Prince Bismarck, the greatest statesman of this century.

The advent of these memoirs has been awaited by great political students the world over with the utmost interest.

It is one of the most important works of the century.

It is Bismarck's official autobiography.

Cotta, the great Stuttgart publisher, paid 1,000,000 marks for the manuscript.

It is through an arrangement with that firm that the Journal is able to-day to tell in Bismarck's own words how he conceived the great features of his policy, how he executed them and finally how he created the German Empire.

As a constructive statesman Bismarck was the master mind of this century. In this respect Gladstone is hardly to be compared to him. Bismarck is the only statesman of modern times who has united a nation and created an empire which seems destined to endure.

Bismarck was called "the Iron Chancellor" and "the Man of Blood and Iron." These terms were deserved. Truth, justice, mercy, humanity and even civilization were all subordinated by him to his political objects.

Bismarck was born on April 1, 1815. As early as 1835, when he was Prussian representative at Frankfurt, he began his policy of making Prussia the head of Germany, instead of Austria.

In 1864 he brought about a war, in which Prussia, aided by Austria, took Schleswig and Holstein from Denmark. Bismarck proposed to annex the conquered territory to the kingdom of Prussia.

Austria objected, and in 1866 Bismarck sent the Prussian army, under Von Moltke, into Austria. In seven weeks the Austrians were beaten and Prussia became the acknowledged head of the North German States.

Bismarck needed another war to raise the new North German Confederation into an empire. The opportunity was afforded by France. He turned the invincible German army against that country and crushed her.

On January 18, 1871, King William of Prussia was crowned German Emperor at Versailles, outside Paris. It was all Bismarck's work. His memoirs show that the stupid old King was angrily averse to accepting so great a title.

Bismarck's memoirs are probably the most perfect revelation of a great statesman's mind that has ever been made. The authorized English translation of Bismarck's Memoirs will be published by Harper & Brothers.

## PRINCE BISMARCK'S MEMOIRS.

### CHAPTER I.

1832.

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**A** NORMAL product of our state system of education, I left school at Easter a Pantheist, and, if not a republican, at least with the persuasion that the republic was the most rational form of government; with reflections, too, upon the causes which could decide millions of men permanently to obey one man, when all the while I heard from grown-up people much bitter or contemptuous criticism of their rulers.

Moreover, I had brought away with me "German-National" impressions from the Turner preparatory school in which I lived from my sixth to my twelfth year, absorbing the Jahn traditions as taught by Pamann. These impressions remained in the stage of theoretical reflections, and were not strong enough to extirpate my innate Prussian monarchial sentiments.

My historical sympathies remained on the side of authority. To my childish ideas of Justice Harmodius and Aristogiton, as well as Brutus, were criminals, and Tell a rebel and murderer. Every German prince who resisted the Emperor before the Thirty Years' War roused my ire, but from the Great Elector onward I was partisan enough to judge anti-imperial, and to find it natural that things should have been in readiness for the Seven Years' War. Yet the "German-National" feeling remained so strong in me that I, at the beginning of my university life, at once entered into relations with the group of students that made the promotion of a national sentiment its aim.

#### Bismarck's Early Student Comrades.

But after personal intimacy with its members, I disliked their refusal to "give satisfaction," as well as their want of breeding in externals and of acquaintance with the forms and manners of good society; and, on still closer acquaintance, bred an aversion to the extravagance of their political views, based upon a lack of either culture or knowledge of existing conditions of life which historical causes had brought about, and which I, with my seventeen years, had had more opportunities of observing than most of these for the most part older students. Their ideas gave me the impression of an association between Utopian theories and defective breeding. Nevertheless, I preserved within myself my "National" sentiments, and the belief that in the near future events would lead to German unity. In fact, I made a bet with my American friend Coffin that this aim would be attained in twenty years.

In my first half year at college fell the Hambach festival (May 27, 1832); the "festal ode" of which still remains in my memory; in my third fell the Frankfurt fiasco (April 3, 1833). These manifestations revolted me. Mob interference with political authority con-

flicted with my Prussian schooling, and I returned to Berlin with less liberal opinions than when I quitted it.

#### Bismarck's First Experience as Court Reporter.

I resolved to follow a diplomatic career. The Minister Anclion advised me first of all to pass my examination as "Regierungs-Assessor," and then by the circuitous route of employment in the Zollverein to seek admittance into the German diplomacy of Prussia. He did not, it would seem, anticipate in a salon of the native squirearchy a vocation of European diplomacy. I took his hint to heart and resolved first of all to go up for my examination as "Regierungs-Assessor."

The persons and institutions of our judicial system with which I was in the first instance concerned gave my youthful conceptions more material for criticism than for respect. The practical education of the "Auscultator" began by keeping the minutes of the Criminal Courts, and to this post I was promoted out of my proper turn by the Rath, Herr von Brauchitsch, under whom I worked, because in those days I wrote a more than usually quick and legible hand. Of the examinations, as criminal proceedings in the inquisitorial method of that day were called, the one that has made the most lasting impression upon me related to a widely ramifying association in Berlin for the purpose of unnatural vice.

The club arrangements of the accomplices, the agenda books, the levelling effect through all classes of a common pursuit of the forbidden—all this, even in 1835, pointed to a demoralization in no whit less than that evidenced by the proceedings against the Heinze, husband and wife, in October, 1891. The ramifications of this society extended even into the highest circles. It was ascribed to the influence of Prince Wittgenstein that the reports of the cases were demanded from the Ministry of Justice, and were never returned—at least during the time I served on the tribunal.

After I had been keeping the records for four months I was transferred to the Stadtgericht, before which civil causes are tried, and was suddenly promoted from the mechanical occupation of writing from dictation to an independent post, which, having regard to my inexperience and my sentiments, made my position difficult.

#### He Sits in Divorce Proceedings.

The first stage in which the legal novice was called to a more independent sphere of activity was in connection with divorce proceedings. Obviously regarded as the least important, they were intrusted to the most incapable Rath, Praetorius by name, and under him were left to the tender mercies of unfledged "Auscultators," who had to make upon this corpus vile their first experiments in the role of judges, of course under the nominal responsibility of Herr Praetorius, who, nevertheless, took no part in their proceedings. By way of indicating this gentleman's character it was told to us young people that when, during the sittings, he was roused from

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BISMARCK THE IRON CHANCELLOR BY LENBACH

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